Dear Js, 3/22/73

It seems my timing on my letter to Tunney and Byrd could not have been better. It gives an accurate measure of their dedication or of the effeciency of their staffs that, with Gray's testimony yesterday and even more today, they have not used it. It proves much more than what Gray was forced to admit today, that Dean is a liar. It proves that despite the pose of the innocent man in the middle, Gray himself is a bigger liar or a grosser incompetent. Either should totally disqualify him.

I have sent the Post reporting separately, before having time to read it. I had settled down for as relaxing a morning as the news permits, a rarity of a morning of actually reading the paper, when that was pleasantly interrupted by a neighbor who came with his 1944 tractor to plow the plot I'd cleared for a garden. It is mountain hillside, was forrest, and just chopping the still-attached roots and pulling them out was a bit much for the former farmer. (I used to enjoy clearing land and I cleared out farm with no equioment except a truck.) He got the plowing done before lunch, left for a bite, and I got in the house just in time to turn on the TV for NBC's 12:55 p.m. net news. I was astounded that Gray was posing as the man who did not know if Hunt was employed in the White House when Dean s letter told me he had given the FBI the Hunt payroll records. Desk, schmesk, the payroll counts and that Gray had and Dean had and gave him.

When I first got this letter, as you may recall, I sent Dick Harwood a copy. I did not expect the Post to use it or to credit me, but I did hope they'd use it for some investigative reporting. They didn't. I decided to phone, anyway, and everyone I know there except Paul Valentine was at lunch. He saw the point right away and said he'd tell Harwood after lunch. I had just had time to phone Ian, who was also at lunch, when my neighbor returned to disk the garden spot. That also dragged me so, on return, I read the clippings and was shocked all over again to learn that Gray made all the obvious false pretenses he did yesterday. They crumble on their own but he seems not to have been really questioned about his palpable misrepresentations.

From the Post story it would seem that as late as near July 28 he was still wondering if the President (meaning or anyone at the White House) knew if anyone working for the White House was involved. Even the inadequate reporting left no doubt of that. But if he was pretending to accept the Clawson ploy, that Hunt left by 3/29, then his gall is incredible and he would be a menace beyond reasonable description as FBI director.

What I'm really saying is that this man is much more of a menace that if he were no more than a political tool of GL, which he also is. He puts on - and gets away with - this innocence of the man-in-the-middle, honest, simple man who is dedicated and all that nonsense, when he has to be sinister beyond descriptions from this testimony alone.

I don't expect to hear from the Post. When I gave Harwood that letter it was a page one story in itself because it proved that a White House employee as of the time of the arrests was involved in the criminality. Their not using it then leads me to believe they'll not use it now. Ian was away, so with less than an hour before I have to leave on an errand prior to getting Lil, this letter to call today's Post's Gray story to your attention. It is in the last small envelope. As long as these large ones last, I'll use them, to fold the stuff less.

At this point Ian called me, not from having gotten my message, which he hadn't, but from UPI's copy and what he remembered of my letter to the Senators and Dean's to me, which I gave him Saturday. It is his impression that Byrd's questioning (and Byrd was not named by NBC) was prompted by my letter. The UPI story is more detailed, naturally, than that tiny part of a five-minutes newscost of which two minutes are commercials.

Decided to call Lary, who will not be in for an hour and a half, so I called his DC Bureau, read the letter to the woman who answer the phone, and she saw the thing immediately. Eaton is still at the hearings. Ian will give them a copy of the letter and maybe a little more fats will sizzle. I had her call Ian on her other phone. Only problem is I'll be gone in 20 minutes and for a couple of hours, in case Eaton doesn't understand or has questions.

HW 3/22/73